AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use in consolidating computing devices, comprising:

storing at least two data sets, the at least two datasets each comprising information indicative of the characteristics of the services provided by at least a first computing device and a second computing device, wherein the datasets ~~data sets~~ describe the information in a markup language, and wherein the ~~computing device~~ service characteristics comprise at least one of: system parameters, executable process parameters, and computing device database definition parameters;

loading the at least two datasets ~~data sets~~ into a ~~first relational~~ database so that the at least two datasets ~~data sets~~ can be compared to each other to facilitate consolidation of services performed on at least one of the computing devices, the consolidation resulting in the moving of at least one of the services to a computing device other than the computing device providing the service.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the markup language is XML.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the system parameters comprise at least one of: the number of processors, available processors, processor level, devices, disk drive characteristics, disk drive capacity, system name, page size, operating system version, operating system build, and network connectivity.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the executable process parameters comprise at least one of: CPU utilization, memory utilization, active processes, active process dependencies, processor usage, memory usage, process creation time, process ID, process owner, process handles, process version, dependency version, process timestamp, process description, and dependency description.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 7 wherein the ~~first relational~~ database comprises a system information table for maintaining the system information for at least one computing device.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 8 wherein the ~~first relational~~ database comprises a process table related to the system information table, wherein the process table maintains information related to executable processes on a computing device.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 9 wherein the ~~first relational~~ database comprises a module table related to the system information table, wherein the module table contains information related to modules on a computing device that are used by a process.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the computing device database definition parameters comprise at least one of: database names, roles, users, aliases, defaults, rules, functions, user defined datatypes, user messages, tables, views, indexes, extended procedures, stored procedures, and triggers.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 12 wherein the ~~first relational~~ database comprises a database name table for maintaining a list ~~the names~~ of computing device database names.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the ~~first relational~~ database comprises a table table related to the database name table, wherein the table table maintains computing device database table names.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 14 wherein the ~~first relational~~ database comprises a column table related to the table table, wherein the column table maintains computing device database column names.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 13 comprising a second table related to the database name table wherein the second table is a table comprising at least one of: trigger, ~~procedure,~~ database role, function, and procedure.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for comparing computing device parameters, comprising:

at least one storage device storing at least two datasets ~~data sets~~, the at least two datasets ~~data sets~~ each comprising information indicative of the characteristics of the services provided by at least a first computing device and a second computing device, wherein the datasets ~~data~~ sets files describe the information in a markup language, and wherein the ~~computing device~~ service characteristics comprise at least one of: system parameters, executable process parameters, and computing device database definition parameters;

a ~~first relational~~ database having tables configured to accept data from the data set files; and,

a set of computer-readable instruction capable of loading the data from the at least two datasets ~~data sets~~ into the tables of the ~~first relational~~ database so that the at least two datasets ~~data sets~~ can be compared to each other to facilitate consolidation of services performed on at least one of the computing devices, the consolidation resulting in the moving of at least one of the services to a computing device other than the computing device providing the service..

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The system as recited in claim 17 wherein the markup language is XML.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 17 wherein the system parameters comprise at least one of: the number of processors, available processors, processor level, devices, disk drive characteristics, disk drive capacity, system name, page size, operating system version, operating system build, and network connectivity.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 17 wherein the executable process parameters comprise at least one of: CPU utilization, memory utilization, active processes, active process dependencies, processor usage, memory usage, process creation time, process ID, process owner, process handles, process version, dependency version, process timestamp, process description, and dependency description.

24. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 23 wherein the ~~first relational~~ database comprises a system information table for maintaining the system information for at least one computing device.

25. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 24 wherein the ~~first relational~~ database comprises a process table related to the system information table, wherein the process table maintains information related to executable processes on a computing device.

26. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 25 wherein the ~~first relational~~ database comprises a module table related to the system information table, wherein the module table contains information related to modules on a computing device that are used by a process.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 17 wherein the computing device database definition parameters comprise at least one of: database names, roles, users, aliases, defaults, rules, functions, user defined datatypes, user messages, tables, views, indexes, extended procedures, stored procedures, and triggers.

29. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 28 wherein the ~~first relational~~ database comprises a database name table for maintaining a list ~~the names~~ of computing device database names.

30. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 29 wherein the ~~first relational~~ database comprises a table table related to the database name table, wherein the table table maintains computing device database table names.

31. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 30 wherein the ~~first relational~~ database comprises a column table related to the table table, wherein the column table maintains computing device database column names.

32. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 29 comprising a second table related to the database name table wherein the second table is a table comprising at least one of: trigger, ~~procedure,~~ database role, function, and procedure.